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Based on Misunderstanding

White House Denies Nixon's Cuba Claim

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The White House Tuesday denied former Vice President Richard M. Nixon's statement that President Kennedy was told during the 1960 election campaign of U.S. plans to support an invasion of Cuba.

Nixon charged in his new book, "Six Crises," that Kennedy endangered U.S. security when he came out publicly Oct. 20 for U.S. intervention in Cuba and aid to anti-Castro forces. Nixon said Kennedy previously had been briefed by the Central Intelligence Agency on plans for the Cuban invasion.

Allen W. Dulles, CIA director at the time, repudiated the White House statement. In a statement released through the CIA, Dulles said the briefings given Kennedy during the campaign did not cover any plans by the government for "overt or covert action such as the Cuban invasion."

Dulles said in a statement to present CIA Director John A. McCone that the "Cuban situation" in his briefings included in the Kennedy campaign. Dulles said, "I believe, based on my understanding of the briefings given to the President, that the President was not misled by the statement."

In challenging Nixon's claim — obviously without the President's approval — the White House suggested the account was "apparently based on a misunderstanding." Dulles said Kennedy was informed about the proposed invasion a month after he had spoken out — and after he had been elected.

"The President does not believe that invasion of Cuba is a proper subject of public debate," Press Secretary W. Mark Felt said. "The President's light of the subject is on his book 'Six Crises,' which he told me that the President had not told me."

1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for supporting an invasion of Cuba."

"Sen. Kennedy received two briefings from Mr. Allen Dulles of the CIA, the first on July 22, 1960 and the second on Sept. 18, 1960," Salinger said. "The two briefings covered an overall review of the world situation, during which Cuba was mentioned."

"But Sen. Kennedy was first informed of the operation to which Mr. Nixon refers in a briefing by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell of the CIA (deputy director for operations) given in Palm Beach on Nov. 18, 1960."